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19 March 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to DD/I (Planning)

FROM: Assistant Director for Basic Intelligence

SUBJECT: Emergency Plans (Operation Alert)

1. The OBI participation in "Operation Alert" for 1956 must be generally in the nature of feasibility exercises on simulated requirements due to the nature of OBI operations. The workload at OBI is imposed by the NIS contributing agencies, and the flow of material to OBI for processing can be expected to continue during the period of the "Alert" exercise. Any diversion of this flow to the CIA Relocation Center would be impractical and highly undesirable as the OBI Emergency Force is not staffed to process the material, and it would have to be returned untouched at the end of the exercise. Only in a situation where all personnel of OBI are evacuated from Washington, and re-assembled at a new base of operation, would such a diversion be warranted. For "Operation Alert" it is assumed, therefore, that normal operations of OBI will be continued at Harriet Lane Hall to avoid disruption of the interagency NIS production and processing procedures, and that the OBI Emergency Force at the CIA Relocation Center would undertake the over-all coordination of the NIS Program, fulfillment of requirements for NIS, and such special requirements in the field of basic intelligence as may be levied upon it by The Joint Chiefs of Staff, or the Deputy Director of Intelligence.

2. The OBI Emergency Force will establish contact with The Joint Staff, and with all key personnel in the NIS Program, and will work out problems of the type which would be encountered in an actual emergency. One such problem could be the simulated fulfillment of special requirements from The Joint Staff through utilization of the NIS mechanism. Another might be an emergency requirement for published NIS elements greatly in excess of existing stocks, requiring a feasibility exercise involving contract arrangements with commercial printing concerns. These and other types of simulated exercises will be meaningful and provide a basis for evaluating the adequacy of the OBI

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Emergency Force, as well as the adequacy of the communications and other facilities which are essential to this type of operation.

3. To enable the OBI Emergency Force to function as outlined above will require coordination of the CIA-OBI emergency plans with those of the IAC Agencies with respect to the NIS Program. To operate from the CIA Relocation Center the Assistant Director for Basic Intelligence, who serves as permanent chairman of the NIS Committee, must know the emergency stations of all members of that Committee, and the members in turn must have knowledge of his station. Lines of communication between these key individuals in the NIS Program and The Joint Staff must be established, and these communication facilities must be available to the OBI Emergency Force for continuing and unrestricted use. Courier service between the NIS contributing agencies and the OBI emergency station is also an essential requirement.

4. As a first step in preparing for an emergency operation which will involve OBI and all agencies participating in the NIS Program, it is necessary that the NIS Committee undertake the development of procedures for the conduct of the program under emergency conditions. This will require a full and free exchange of information on the emergency plans of all the IAC Agencies in NIS Committee discussions in order to uncover problems requiring resolution.

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